

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

THE KING OF BELGIUM A MODEL MONARCH.

JUDGE LAMBERT DESCRIBES THE LABORS, THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE LEARNING OF LEOPOLD II.—HIS INTEREST IN ART.—ACCESSION TO ALL WHO HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Judge Lambert Tree, a member of the Monetary Conference, who was for a number of years our Minister in Belgium, gave me yesterday a most interesting view of Leopold II, the King of Belgium. It is a most interesting and correct picture. Judge Tree has had such a wide knowledge of European affairs and such an acquaintance that his comparisons and deductions have great value in making a careful estimate of the character of this notable monarch.

If the Belgian King had been called upon to rule over any one of the first-class Powers he would undoubtedly be considered the greatest monarch of his time. There is no ruler in Europe who is his equal in point of accomplishments, ability and breadth of mind. He is tall, with a straight, well-built figure. He has a refined face. His features are regular. The lower part of his face is set off by a short brown beard. Although he is fifty-seven years of age, he shows little trace of the sorrows and trials he has been called upon to endure in his reign. He is a hard-working monarch. He leads a most regular life. He is relieved in all of his tastes and is devoted to study and the advancement of his country. He is always in his bed before 10 o'clock at night unless kept up by some special court function. As soon as he is out of bed in the morning he dresses and goes out for a ride on horseback. Sometimes this continues for an hour. He is always out of doors for half an hour at least, and in nearly all weathers. Then he comes back to his bath and his coffee, and at once addresses himself to his work. This continues during the morning. He goes carefully over every bit of his correspondence and the papers laid before him by his Ministers. He also receives during the morning numerous delegations. He is an accessible man. Any one who has any real business with him finds no trouble in gaining an audience. Foreigners of importance who wish to see him can readily have an interview, when the demand is formulated by their Ministers. The morning is taken up with correspondence and the reception of delegations. After his second breakfast the King goes back to his study and works hard upon public business until dinner. He is nearly always in work. Occasionally he is obliged to take part in the fêtes or royal functions of the year. These are almost his only recreations. Even his evenings are devoted to work. He is a student of all subjects, and is thoroughly well-versed in the literature of the day.

He is devoted to art. He has done more than any other modern ruler for the advancement of art in his kingdom. Indeed, one of the strongest elements in the success of the present Belgian monarch is the support that has been given by this broad-minded, refined and scholarly King. He is constantly looking out for new talent. He is a man of profound knowledge of art, a correct and appreciative eye, and he is almost always the first to discover talent in a young artist. He even goes about to the studios of Brussels hunting for some one to encourage. At the annual exhibition he goes through the collection carefully, and when he discovers any new artist of talent he invariably purchases his picture. This always brings to the artist favor and additional orders. An artist who has sold some of his work to the King is regarded as a successful man. For it is generally known that the King is not indiscriminate in his praises and that where he approves the artist is deserving. In the same fashion he goes out of his way to encourage sculptors. He steals every now and then an hour from his busy days to sit for some young and unknown sculptor whom he has found to be deserving of encouragement. This gives a great stimulus to art study and work. The young artists of Belgium know that in him they always have a friend at court.

He is a widely travelled man for a European ruler. Before he came to the throne he travelled all through Europe and even went as far east as China. His mind has, therefore, been broadened by unusual opportunities of observation afforded by his numerous journeys. To-day he often visits France, Germany and England, although he rarely goes farther away from home than that. He is a splendid horseman and has served as a military officer for a number of years. He is a lover of outdoor life and keeps up his health and vigor through his devotion to horseback exercise. He is a fluent linguist. He speaks French, German, English, Flemish, Spanish and Italian with such ease and such accuracy that he would be able to address any public assembly in either of these languages. He is much interested in the United States. It is one of the secret desires of his heart to be able to visit this country. He will not in all probability be able to go so far away from home. He is, however, much interested in this country and is thoroughly familiar with its institutions. He watches closely our material development, the march of our industries and our new discoveries in science and in the world of inventions.

The Belgian King occupies a neutral position in politics. He is not supposed to have any politics. Yet, notwithstanding this expectation, the King is a profound politician and understands well the art of getting on with the leaders of both sides. He is an elegant writer. He makes a model public address. He is a ready speaker, and always says just the right thing. No one has ever yet convicted him of saying one word too much, or of uttering any phrases which require afterward explanation or defence. His intellectual expressions are clean-cut and clear. His opinions are decided and not colorless, but at the same time they are always expressed with such moderation and such good taste that no offence is given to those who disagree with his views. He is always ready to take part in any movement for public good. He is identified closely with the development of all the institutions of learning and for the advancement of human knowledge. He is passionately devoted to music, and does as much for his encouragement as he does for art.

A number of years ago, when Belgian capitalists formed a company for the exploration and development of the Congo River, the King was elected president of this association. His motive in assisting himself with this enterprise was the advancement of civilization in the dark and benighted regions of barbarism. It has since been proved that the King aimed at the founding of a great free State which should be a monument to the memory of his only son, who died some years ago. Whether this is true or not, his motives were entirely free from any selfish purpose.

He advanced large sums from his private purse for this expedition, which has been called the expedition of Stanley. When the resources of this State were brought to light in the reports of the expedition, it was thought by the European Powers that it should be given over to the control of some one of their number. It was a great war territory, with a population of 50,000,000 of barbarians, and no possible source of immediate revenues, and as it was a country which called for the expenditure of money without any corresponding compensation, the generous rulers of Europe, a great deal of the time, were inclined to give up the Congo as a Sovereign of the Free State of Congo. In any case, his work made any other selection impossible. He could accept this, it was necessary for him to obtain the consent of his own people. This proposition was submitted to the Belgian Parliament, and this Parliament displayed the same generosity as was exhibited in the Berlin Conference. They gave their consent to have their Sovereign become the ruler of the Congo Free State, but only in a personal sense. The responsibility for the Congo State rested with him as an individual, and was in no way to concern the Belgian Government. In other words, they were perfectly willing that the King should take this office and spend his own resources in the advancement of this undeveloped country, provided

the Belgian people were not to be expected to expend money in that direction. The King did not hesitate to accept, even under these conditions. He hoped, through the development of this State, to put an end also to the slave-trade, which was the curse of undeveloped Africa. It was he who originated the famous Brussels Conference, called in the interests of suppressing the slave-trade and the sale of liquor in the Congo State.

For a number of years he expended from his own private purse annually \$100,000, in round numbers \$200,000, to establish a Government in the Congo State. He still contributes \$250,000 annually from his own income, and probably will so contribute to the end of his reign. In all he has expended up to this time over \$7,000,000 in Africa. It was at his suggestion that Stanley, upon his last expedition, entered Africa from the mouth of the Congo instead of from Zanzibar, so that the Congo and its tributaries might be explored. He furnished part of the money also for this expedition. Outside of the sums given by him for the establishment of courts of justice, of a postal service, steamboat lines, and the like, he has also taken a large amount of stock in the railroad which is now building from Stanley Falls around to Stanley Pool. Between these two points the river is not navigable, and material has to be carried past the falls on the backs of porters. When this railroad is completed, the Congo, with its tributaries, comprising 11,000 miles of navigable water, will be open for trade and commerce.

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THE WORLD OF LONDON.

CHRONICLED AND CRITICISED BY MR. ED. MUND YATES.

TYPHUS FEVER IN FLORENCE—EMPEROR WILLIAM'S HEALTH—KING JOHN OF SAXONY'S BIOGRAPHY—MR. GLADSTONE'S COURSE—THE MEISSONIER-MACKAY DISPUTE—MRS. TWISS.

Copyright, 1891, by The Tribune Association. London, Feb. 9.—The prevalence of typhus fever in Florence has caused alarm among the authorities, for fear of its preventing the Queen's visit; and the municipality has been to great expense to inquire into the condition of the water supply of the Villa Palmeri. It was not considered quite satisfactory, so that a fresh supply has been procured which is absolutely pure, and the Queen will arrive in due course.

STATE OF EMPEROR WILLIAM'S HEALTH. The state of Emperor William's health is exciting the most serious apprehension in court circles in Berlin, but it is high praise to mention the subject. There is reason to fear that the painful car malady from which the Emperor suffers is threatening to become cancerous. Considering His Majesty's family history, there is something most ominous in the official announcement that at the recent military banquet the Emperor having been advised by his physicians to avoid speaking as much as possible, in consequence of an affection of the throat. Almost the same notification was made in the case of Emperor Frederick, just three years ago.

EMPEROR FREDERICK SOON TO VISIT ENGLAND. Empress Frederick has abandoned her projected visit to Rome and Italy, and is coming to England next week, accompanied by her daughter, Princess Margaret, and will stay at Windsor Castle with the Queen for a month. Empress Frederick intends to reside at Homburg from the beginning of April to the middle of June.

THE AUSTRIAN HEIR-APPARENT. The papers which have been announcing that Archduke Francis Ferdinand, nephew and ultimate heir of the Emperor of Austria, is to pay his first visit to England in the spring are, of course, unaware of the fact that the Archduke was in London last year, during Ascot week, for several days, but maintained the strictest incognito. The Archduke is described as perhaps the most desirable prince in Europe, and it is true that he possesses considerable talents, having inherited the vast estates of the late Duke of Parma. He will succeed to the Imperial throne if he lives, and if the Austro-Hungarian Empire lasts, after the death of Francis Joseph.

WHAT CAUSED PRINCE BALDWIN'S DEATH. The sensational and unfounded rumors as to the death of Prince Baldwin, some of them of the wildest kind, have not subsided with the funeral. There seems, however, some ground for believing that the immediate cause of death was, after all, suppressed smallpox. Every member of the royal household, from the grand marshal down to the footman, has been since vaccinated against the disease, which has been the subject of much discussion in Brussels, where the Prince died. Prince Albert is already at St. Raphael, and as soon as Princess Henrietta is strong enough to move, the whole of the Count of Flanders' family will migrate to the Riviera. During their absence from home an attempt will be made to place their whole abode in thorough sanitary repair.

KING JOHN OF SAXONY'S BIOGRAPHY. The biography of the late King John of Saxony, who was the most learned and most accomplished sovereign of the present century, is to be published in a few months at Leipzig, together with a selection from his manuscripts. King John's name will live in German literature from his administrative and literary achievements. His Majesty's reign was characterized by the Prussian order of "Pour le Mérite."

SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN, who has been staying at Sandringham for a few days, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales, is shortly to be the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh at Admiralty House, Devonport.

GLADSTONE'S APPARENT VACILLATION. The greatest confusion prevails in the councils at Sandringham, owing to Mr. Gladstone's apparent inability to decide on the course urged upon him by John Morley and Sir William Vernon Harcourt, respectively. The former favors Home Rule, even to the extent of handing over the police to the Irish, and the latter, who is more moderate, is inclined to support the Irish, but not to hand over the police to them. Mr. Gladstone inclines first to one and then to the other; and last week his son, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, wrote to a friend abroad that his father, having survived all his contemporaries in the House of Commons, had resolved at last to end his career in the House of Lords. Since then, it seems, there has been another change of front, and Mr. Gladstone has made up his mind to swallow the Harcourt-Morley programme.

OPENING OF THE JAMAICA EXHIBITION. It is strange that not a single morning paper gives any account of the opening of the Jamaica Exhibition, although Lord Rosebery has an agent at Kingston. Private messengers have been received at Marlborough House by the Prince of Wales from Prince George, which describe the opening ceremony as having been in all respects the most brilliant success, and his Royal Highness was received with almost frantic enthusiasm by the inhabitants. Prince George, who has been the guest of Sir Henry and Lady Blake during his visit to Jamaica, has been making a short tour through the island during the last ten days.

TO SUCCEED SIR WILLIAM WILFIRE. I am enabled to announce that Evelyn Baring will shortly be appointed Ambassador to Constantinople, in succession to Sir William Wilf. It is to be expected that the diplomatic service on a pension.

MR. KINGLAKE AND THE DUKE OF BEDFORD. No allusion has been made in any of the papers to the chess friendship which existed for many years between the Duke and the late Duke of Bedford and Mr. Kinglake. The Duke called constantly to inquire for Mr. Kinglake during the latter's long illness, and always sat with him for at least an hour. When the Duke died, three days before Mr. Kinglake died, he had taken to his bed and was pining away, and he was greatly afflicted and went away in tears. It was observed at the funeral service that the Duke appeared to be greatly afflicted by the loss of his intimate and attached friend.

MISS FARNELL DOES NOT CROSS THE ATLANTIC. Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien did all they could to persuade Miss Farnell to cross the Atlantic to London to work played with the proposal for some time, and finally decided to assent to it. He found out that the real object of the suggestion was to use him to draw in the dollars, and at the same time to undermine his power while he should be away. Farnell intends to remain, and to direct, under the thin disguise of a private member, the policy of the Irish party.

FONDNESS OF IRISH WOMEN FOR HUNTING. The ladies seem to take to hunting in Ireland with extreme will, far, after the fashion of the night before, thirty-two ladies of Tipperary took the field with Mr. Burke and had a good gallop after the hunt ball in County Down. The ladies who went to a hunt at Killybeg, Major St. Leon Moore's residence in Kildare, on the day after the hunt ball at Naas Court House.

THE MEISSONIER-MACKAY DISPUTE. Although the papers positively bristled this week with reminiscences of the Meissonier-Mackay dispute, not one paper has hit on the true source of his historical quarrel with Mrs. Mackay. Meissonier failed notoriously to make his mark at portraiture, but could never be persuaded that he was not quite as good as either Calad or Bonnat. Curiously enough, the only possible portrait he ever turned out was one of himself, which hung at the last French Exhibition, soon after Mrs. Mackay began her attack. She was attacked by a dangerous illness of many weeks' duration, and Meissonier, whose commercial aptitude was notorious, fearing to lose the 70,000 francs agreed on, hastened to finish the picture with the aid of a model. The result can easily be imagined; and Mrs. Mackay, who wears gloves of five and three-quarters, very naturally objected to the portrait of herself as Mrs. Mackay, and not as the French painter. She will be relieved to learn that the portrait still exists, carefully packed away in the cellar of John Mackay's Paris bankers. It has not seen the daylight for some years, but its alleged tragic destruction was a simple canard. Three years ago, Meissonier married the model.

THE PATRIARCHS' BALL.

THE WIDOW OF HORACE TWISS.

I have not seen any allusion in print to the death of Mrs. Twiss, of Hobart Place, which happened about a month ago, at an advanced age. She was the widow of Horace Twiss, a well-known barrister during the last half of the present century, and at one time Under-Secretary for the Colonies. He was a nephew of Mrs. Siddons, and a friend of Charles Kemble. He lived much among literary and theatrical people, was author of a Life of Lord Chancellor Eldon, and wrote many pretty little Anacreontic songs. Horace Twiss died suddenly at sixty-two, while speaking at a public meeting held at Radley's Hotel, blackfriars. His widow was a remarkably handsome woman, and an admirable amateur pianist. Their house, in Park Place, St. James's, was the scene of many delightful reunions. Mr. Twiss was supposed to be the first man who ever wrote a summary of the debates in Parliament for "The Times." EDMUND YATES.

THE MUSEUM IS IN NEED.

NOTHING WITH WHICH TO PURCHASE ART OBJECTS—THE OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the trustees of the National Museum of Art and History, which was held yesterday at the Museum, was presided over by President Henry G. Marquand, vice-presidents, William C. Prime and Daniel Huntington; treasurer, Salem H. Wales, and secretary, General L. P. Di Censola. The trustees also elected trustees for the terms ending in 1891. The joint report of the president and secretary, which was read by General Di Censola, was listened to with interest by the trustees. It showed that the receipts for the year of \$24,944.21, was \$4,000 less than the disbursements for the same account were \$21,944.21. The maintenance of the Museum proper cost \$7,994.27. Of this sum \$24,944.21 was contributed by the city. The income for the year was not sufficient for the expenses, but the deficiency, the report said, was not due to any want of economy. "The institution has been carried on," the report continued, "at a rate of expenditure which, when compared with that of other museums, is surprisingly low. The large growth which has been attained is accompanied by a large increase of expense and is without a corresponding increase in the income. These expenses are increasing from month to month, and it is impossible to arrest the increase without arresting our growth and usefulness. It is a reason for justifiable pride that this institution has been conducted to its present magnitude by the voluntary co-operation of its membership."

The extensive addition to the building which was made in 1888 was immediately utilized to its utmost capacity. Another extension of equal magnitude is large necessary. The city authorities, in pursuance of the agreement to furnish buildings, which we agree to fill with works of art for public education, have appropriated \$100,000 for the erection of a new wing, and the excavations for foundations have been begun. The report further said that a number of new gifts had been added to the Museum. These gifts included a number of fine paintings, valued at \$80,000, presented by Mr. Macdonald. The paintings would be placed on exhibition in the course of a few weeks. Edward D. Adams had also presented twenty-seven large volumes of photographic representations of works of art of the period of the Renaissance. As to the library, the report said:

"The small amount which we are able to appropriate annually for the library has been chiefly expended in purchase of books, and, absolutely needed in the work of the Museum. While we are in receipt of so many and valuable works of art from year to year, it is remarkable that so few persons appear to record the importance of giving to the library. While we are acquiring examples of ancient and modern art, it is not to be forgotten that we can never have too many books accessible to us in books and publications which ought to be in our library."

The art schools were said to be in a better condition than heretofore. "The result of past study and experiment," the report added, "has developed a school in which the principles of teaching are closely allied to those accepted by the best authorities attending the schools. Large and earnest class of pupils are